

S/N 10/527,179

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Ogata	Examiner:	Shao, Rei Tsang
Serial No.:	10/527,179	Group Art Unit:	1626
Filed:	January 24, 2006	Docket No.:	13357.0010USWO
Customer No.:	23552	Confirmation No.:	9983
Title:	MELANIN ELIMINATOR PREPARATION		

Filed EFS-WEB

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement Office Action mailed February 20, 2008, the date for timely reply extended one month to April 20, 2008, Applicants respectfully request consideration of the claims in view of the following remarks

Restriction Requirement

The Office Action alleges restriction to one of Groups I-III is required under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372. Applicants elect Group II, drawn to products of compounds of formula (II). The elected group encompasses claims 16-17.

Species Election

If Group II is elected, Applicants are required to elect a single species for prosecution on the merits. Applicants elect N-(6,8-dimercaptooctanoyl)histidine metal chelate. The elected specie encompasses claims 16-17.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/527,179

Response dated 27 March 2008

Reply to Restriction Requirement Office Action dated February 20, 2008

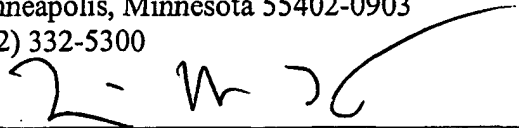
Upon allowance of any of the generic claims, Applicants note they are entitled to consideration of claims to additional species. Any claims directed to non-elected species must be rejoined or reinstated and fully examined for patentability. MPEP § 809.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 27 March 2008



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE